



## 2003 Nevada Indian Summit

The Third Annual Nevada Indian Agricultural and Environmental Summit was held in Elko, September 10-12. The Summit was hosted by the South Fork Band Council and organized by Staci Emm, Extension Indian Reservation Program Specialist with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and Cub Wolfe, American Indian Tribal Liaison with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Nevada.

About 30 tribal members and various agency representatives attended the summit. Larson Bill, chairman of the South Fork Band Council, welcomed the participants. Agency leaders, including Livia Marqués, NRCS state conservationist; Karen Hinton, dean and director for Extension; Don Henderson, Nevada Department of Agriculture; and Roger Van Valkenburg, state director for the Farm Service Agency, gave brief presentations on assistance available from their agencies. The afternoon session topics covered the 2002 Farm Bill, riparian area management, noxious weed control, and wildfire reduction.

Twenty students from Owyhee schools participated on two tours that were held on Thursday. Extension educators Kent McAdoo and Sherman Swanson conducted the tour of riparian management on the South Fork Indian Reservation at Lee. Participants learned how to assess riparian health.

The ag production tour started out at Billy Horn's in Clover Valley. Horn, an accomplished horse handler, provided a lively demonstration of his techniques for gentling and breaking horses.

The second stop was at the Ballard Ranch where Steve Ballard, Glen Koch from Fort Dodge Pharmaceuticals, and Extension's Ron Torrell discussed proper vaccination techniques, part of the University's Beef Quality Assurance Program. They

showed how improper vaccinations caused damage to the meat and hide, ultimately decreasing the income generated from the cattle. On this portion of the tour, Summit participants were joined by several local ranchers, including Brad and Dani Dalton, and the agriculture class from the Great Basin College and their teacher, Gary Sundseth.

The final stop on the tour was at the Ruby Mountain Brewery--without the students. There, Steve Safford explained how beer is brewed, while his wife, Maggie, talked about the marketing and distribution aspects of microbrew.

The students rejoined the Summit for the banquet that night, where Bill and Dalles Smales, environmental specialist from the South Fork Band, presented Staci Emm, Extension Indian Reservation Program Specialist, with an original painting by Indian artist Jerry Millot for her work organizing the Summit.

The Nevada Tribal Agriculture Committee met on the final day of the Summit. Jerry Buk, Extension area director, and Emm led a discussion of concerns and problems Tribes are having with agriculture programs.

